

Canal Winchester

*Town Hall
10 North High Street
Canal Winchester, OH 43110*



Meeting Minutes - FINAL

March 1, 2021

6:00 PM

Council Work Session

Mike Coolman - Chair

Jill Amos

Will Bennett

Bob Clark

Patrick Lynch

Chuck Milliken

Mike Walker

A. Call To Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

B. Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Amos, Bennett, Clark, Coolman, Lynch, Milliken, Walker

C. Also In Attendance

Mayor Ebert, Matt Peoples, Lucas Haire, Amanda Jackson

D. Request for Council Action**RES-20-012**

Council

A RESOLUTION TO OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND DIVERSITY

Amos: *I had a conversation with the Board of Health, absolutely wonderful ladies, were on the call. They did have a couple of suggestions and I will touch on those briefly but the big thing that they mentioned was they would really like to be able to come in for about a half an hour. One of my questions would be for Council is, we have the Committee of the Whole at then end of March, where we had talked about bringing the Sheriff so I wasn't sur if that was still happening or if that would be the perfect opportunity for us to bring in the Board of Health for at least a half of hour to 45 minutes.*

Coolman: *We can discuss that under Old/New Business when we bring up the Committee of the Whole meeting and get that agenda put together.*

Amos: *Perfect. A couple of suggestions that had were basically wording issues. They did not like the human race comment, they felt more strongly we should do, define it like the Board of Health does, where it says race is a social construct with no biologic basis and I have a lot of this typed out to. I'm sure they can chime in on it. There was a couple of little tidbits they did like our Chat feature, they did like that they had in there for someone to attend and agree that it didn't have to be the same person but one other suggestion they made, which I thought was very interesting. They said Grand View, Bexley and several other cities are starting to do this. It's what is called a local Board of Health. It's not necessarily a person you hire for your City as the Board of Health. Its members are selected to represent the City as the Board of Health or basically a Committee and once a month the Board of Health meets with these different Cities and just discusses things that are on the table going on in Ohio. Then it's your job to disseminate the information back to your public or to share it the way you see fit to your public. There are several cities that are starting to do this, it's a very nice idea. Joe Mozola, his Assistant, is the one who helps write the agendas so it's not something our group would have to run, it's something we would participate in with the Board of Health. It's on a one on one basis. It is*

something under Old/New Business we may want to consider. As Council, we do have the right to create a committee. Is this something that we would want to do? Generally, it is a Council Member or Members, someone from Fire and EMS and someone from your Police Department, then a City Person. They just select people to attend this, she said it's not necessarily the same people who attend your Chat Sessions but it could be. In our case, Hannah, would be a great representation since she's in communications. Again, they meet once a month for 30-45 minutes and share with the City. They said a lot of Cities are starting to pick up this Board of Health and bring it into their communities. One of the big things is we need to make sure we are building trust between our residents and our Police force, there are a lot of Cities making that their priorities in the Resolutions so that might be something they come back with. They are sending some things they didn't have a chance to send before hand. The other thing that has been big, in a lot of communities is an annual diversity report. A lot of Cities are having their Police Department and the City Manager or Mayor, work together to create an annual diversity report that they give to the City at the end of the year. Really good suggestions, and that's part of the reason they asked to come in so they can explain it better. They are going to send the three of us a couple of the changes and we will go from there.

Coolman: *Sounds Great. If you have any information you can share with us on what they send so we can look at it, that would be great to, for us. What kind of timeline did they say they would like to have?*

Amos: *Their portion is about 30 minutes and with questions it could go as long as we prefer.*

Milliken: *A couple of notes on what Mrs. Amos just said. I think it's excellent feedback. First and foremost, I would not be ok with changing the human race language to a social construct. Secondly, I am open to continuing this discussion and explaining these options however I think the goal we are working for is setting the foundation. Last meeting, we spoke about Section 1 and there is already some friction there on what we want to do with Section 1. I am ok with discussing their suggestions however I do feel there should be a separate thing to do on top of this because I don't want this to be bogged down in nuisance, it's just going to further divide us. This needs to be a unifying piece, something we all can get behind. I don't think we came to any solid conclusion on Section 1 and what we want to do with that, that is probably where we should pick up the discussion at the moment.*

Clark: *I have some language here that I put together for Section 1. Section 1 "City Council Members are encouraged to attend the Canal Winchester Community Health Action Team Chat Meetings when possible. Members attending the CHAT meetings may provide Council with verbal reports at the next Council meeting." I think this encourages all to attend as much as*

possible, it encourages who goes to give a verbal report back to the Committee but it doesn't require 1 person to absolutely attend, if it's not possible for some Council to not meet that. This is my suggestion as an amendment of Section 1 for discussion. It doesn't have to be decided tonight but at some point it will be revisited.

Coolman: *These are all good suggestions. I think we should, we have a lot of new information that has been corrected by the committee, hear it all out. I guess we should leave it tabled.*

Milliken: *I am ok with leaving it tabled. Mrs. Amos, if they come in on the 25th are we pushing this back to at least April now?*

Amos: *No, I think you and I are on the same page that we still want our Resolution to go forward. The things they are suggesting would be long term goals that we can start working towards. If we want a Board of Health they would help us figure out how to do that and if we decided later to modify the Resolution or to create an Ordinance that could be something we could go further with. Some of the bigger items were more suggestions. The few things they sent out, I will discuss with the two of you and we will sit down and figure out what we want to do from there.*

Milliken: *Ok, great with that being said, I think we can leave it tabled however, I would not like to depart from this discussion without a resolution to Section 1 while we are sitting here. I think it is well within our reason and time to do that this evening.*

Amos: *My conversation with the Board of Health Representatives, they really did feel strongly that being part of the Chat and just saying that one of us will represent, they did feel that was important.*

Walker: *I would be more in favor of something in the wording that Mr. Clark has brought because we don't know who is going to be on future Council and who is going to be able to make it. To make that demand, it could be hard to make that commitment long term. I know there are some on Council who said they can make it every time for the next months but what happens next election and the following elections. I think something more like encouraged or like what Mr. Clark suggested or something else is where I would lean.*

Lynch: *If I understand what Mr. Clark has given us here as far as doing it as an encouraged to attend but I would agree with Mrs. Amos in that I think it has more weight behind it if someone is assigned to attend. As far as who can attend the meetings and can someone make time, I think that is all part of what we do in this position. We make time for CWICC meetings, we make time for Destination meetings, we make time for all these other meetings. I*

do see why once a month it would be hard to make a meeting for this Chat. I would be more than happy to do it for the next 10 months. I think it is important for us a Council to be part of this CHAT at least one person and out of seven you are bound to get someone to set up and do it. It's not that much of a time commitment.

Coolman: *I would be in favor of the wording Mr. Clark presented only because I made a clear point that as much as we can change or the future Council can change the wording, then what is the problem of it being a voluntary attendance and great if we have two this year, now until the end of the year, that's good. But, as previously pointed out what if the seven Council Members present and future don't have the liberty to attend those meetings. These meetings are during the week, during the workday whereas the other meetings are at night, after the workday with the exception of the whole Resolution, we want to get right because this is the foundation from which we are starting from. We also realize that no matter which way we vote on this, future Council can change it just like with anything else. I don't have a problem passing that part but I would rather have the entire thing redone, get an agreement on it. We are already inviting others in to chat, I don't know why we can't have all the information give to us at one time instead of dissecting this thing then putting it back together piece by piece.*

Milliken: *I agree with Councilman Lynch, the requirement to attend would carry more weight to it and thinking in the future if someone would not be able to attend, I think is setting us up for failure as oppose to if we start it off this way and we notice consistency in our attendance, then we can make the language stronger, require it. I am ok with Mr. Clark's language.*

Amos: *When we originally discussed this, we were specific that one person would be assigned. The request came for us to make it a Liaison. I am going to revert back to if I go to the Auditor's Convention and I can not make the Sunshine Law Convention. I can send a representative, a representative can be your Clerk of Court, your Clerk of Council. In the event that one of seven could not make it then your Clerk of Council could go. These happened 5-6 times a year, it's just a struggle for me to believe that if it's a priority that you couldn't plan in advance. Again, if you can send a representative to a conference, you can send a representative to a meeting if one of us couldn't make it.*

Bennett: *I think Mr. Lynch raises an interesting point about some of our committees. I would prefer not to say when possible, but to make a commitment to be part of it. If we could explore changing that to fall outside of work hours, I don't know if they would be conducive to moving it to later or earlier. At one point, I hear these meetings could flex around schedules. Are these quarterly or bi-monthly?*

Lynch: *I believe they are bi-monthly and if I go back and look at previous meetings, they were at one point in the evenings. Now, they are during the day. I'm sure the times are flexible.*

Bennett: *It would go back to us finding out if the CHAT group has flexibility to adjust the schedule to have Council participate.*

Lynch: *It has changed in the past.*

Bennett: *Can we flex their schedules to meet our needs? I do believe it's important for our commitment, someone from Council to be a part of this. I would like to know about the flexibility of the meetings before deciding on the language.*

Walker: *I like the idea Mr. Clark put out there because we could move forward to see how it works out. We have someone who can go for the next several months, so if they can shift the meetings to different times, see how that goes, then bring it back to the table and change Section 1, if need to be. It sounds like we have someone for the rest of the year to represent us and be there.*

Milliken: *One other suggestion, as an alternative solution, which goes back to this being a foundation piece. My concern of getting down to the weeds of this one particular item is we can scratch Section 1 completely, that could be our first next step piece. I felt like we were all ready to go with this outside of one section. If we scratch that and move forward with this then figuring out the Chat situation could be our first next step. I know people are going to that this is us watering it down, like they did before, but that's not the case. I am clearly stating that is not our intent.*

Amos: *Not sure that I am on board with removing it though. It's really important for us to attend some of those meetings. We went from, we are appointing someone specifically to make it non-specific, so we followed the original request. I do understand there are people who will not be able to make it, I just think we are making it to watered down. It just needs to be that one of us will participate. We can guarantee we will do that for the year then go from there. In a year from now, we may need to re-evaluate it, then let's re-evaluate it. In my opinion, we don't need to water it down any more, we need to go forth with what we have and get this wrapped up so we can move on to getting into some of the things suggested or having deeper conversations on it.*

Coolman: *If we don't have the final Resolution in front of us, I'm not sure it's something we should vote on tonight, anyway. I would like to review all of the available information before making a decision on any of it.*

Amos: I did get the email from Ms. Seagraves, while we were sitting here. I will go through them and try to go a red line so people can see what they have written to us.

Coolman: I think that's a great idea. What is the Council's wish?

Amos: I think we are ok with tabling it. I think Mr. Milliken just wanted to have a general Resolution on Section 1 and I don't know that we will have it. I think the three of us just need to sit down and decided what the three of us will present.

Milliken: I just want to make sure I'm reading the room correctly. It sounds to me that it's divided 4:3 on this. We can continue to talk about it if minds are going to be open to be changed then yes we can do that. I am ok with leaving it tabled. I just want to make sure that we are progressing. If we leave it tabled and don't figure out what to do with Section 1 and we keep bringing it up each meeting and don't go anywhere that doesn't help anyone. If we are ok with a 4:3 in making the changes we can do that. If not, and you want to continue to discuss it let me know.

Bennett: I do agree with Mr. Milliken, we have done several laps on this topic, it is time to draw it to a close. You are reading the room correctly in the 4:3 split. The Resolution starts with a commitment and I feel like we need to make a commitment. Section 1, is like a commitment, not literally but, where are we going to start? We are going to start by participating. We have all these other things that we do. We haven't added a new one in a long time. If there were a new one to be added, I think it should be this one. We can appoint a Liaison not necessarily a Council Member.

Coolman: That's what I am saying when I mentioned gathering all the information before you make a sound decision. There are a lot of options. I'm not saying don't make a commitment, first of all you make a commitment to your personal commitments, your lifestyle and how you handle things. We have some options whether it's to appoint a Liaison or appoint a Council Member, there's options and I think that's something we should gather all the information from the other sources because that may give us some reflection on whether we want a Liaison. Secondly, who would that Liaison be. It's easy to sit here and look in the room point a finger and say I think they can do it. Well, how do you know. Yes, we are Council and we can direct City but not without talking to the Leaders, the Mayor and the Directors, about appointing a possible Liaison such as our Communications Director. How do we know what her job will morph into? We don't know yet so I think it's fair to the City to sit and chat with them to get their take on it.

Walker: I don't think it's watered down at all. It's a matter of commitment. I just think it's a heavy commitment to put on future Council.

Bennett: When I say Liaison, I am not necessarily talking about a paid City employee. It could be reaching out to a Community Member who could serve as a Liaison on our behalf. I just wanted to clarify.

Coolman: In all fairness, you are correct. Should we decide on a Liaison we as Council will have to get together and decide don who that is. Just more decisions we will have to make.

What is the Council's desire? Do we want to vote on Section 1? Or, do you want to leave that tabled as well?

Bennett: There's a couple of things I would like to know. Is there an opportunity to get those meeting times changed to reflect a post 9-5 schedule? Do we, as a group, feel like the Representative needs to be a sitting Council Member or the Representative may not be in the room, at this table, at this time?

Amos: Mr. Bennett, I will send a note to Mrs. Bar, Justine Bar is the one who organizes the Chat for our area, so I will send her a message to see about the times, to see if that is changeable. She ahs been very good at getting back to me so I'm sure I will hear back from her rather quickly. Then, no I agree with you it does not have to be. If there absolutely was no City Council Member that could attend, I think if we had a Community Liaison that we were willing to ask I have no problem with that. We have several good Liaisons who are already serving in that.

Coolman: Right and keep in mind fold, I mean, we are in this format right now because of Covid. I would like to think that at some point in the future, we don't know when that's going to be, we'll get back to having people able to attend our meetings and hopefully some of those folks representing Chat can visit us frequently as well. It's an open two-way door, we can visit them they can visit us. I have no problem with that.

Milliken: I would like to clear up one more point of clarification. I heard earlier someone say there's 5-6 meetings a year then someone else said twice a month. Can we confirm exactly how often they meet?

Clark: I have it monthly on my calendar. They loaded them all on your calendar when you signed up to receive the notice. Also, I don't have a problem waiting if we are going to bring them in. We might learn something. I know they did send around an email at the beginning of the year to ask everyone when the best time is for their meetings. They switched the date, it use to be on Wednesdays now it's on Tuesdays. They sent it back out that that was the best day that most people responded to that they can make it. They didn't talk about having any choices of evening meetings at

that point.

Coolman: *I think that because it involves a lot of the communities in Central Ohio. We can see what she has to say but I think that's why they keep it during the day. That's my opinion, I don't know that to be fact but remember who else attends the Chat meeting. It's all the surrounding communities in Central Ohio.*

Amos: *The next Chat meeting is listed for, it's the Canal Winchester Chat, it's March 16th at lunchtime and its virtual.*

Coolman: *What time is lunchtime?*

Amos: *11:00am*

Coolman: *Ok, so again, what does Council want or desire? Do we leave everything tabled? Is that correct?*

Milliken: *Yes, I think we have clear direction now on progression, which was a big concern of mine a moment ago. We are kind of floating around the idea of anybody being a Liaison and possibly changing meeting times and getting input from them. I am comfortable with that.*

Coolman: *Anybody else? We shall leave this tabled then.*

ORD-21-011

Construction Services

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SHELLY AND SANDS, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GENDER RD. IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 5 PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Sims: *We had a good number of bids from a good pool of contractors for Gender Road Phase 5 Project. Shelly and Sands was the lowest bidder. They have performed in the past for us on the 2018 Street Program and most recently they have been regular bidders on our projects as well. This is basically a recommendation that we move forward with Shelly and Sands for Gender Road Phase 5, this summer.*

Amos: *Do we do a public announcement for bids like this?*

Sims: *On our public bid projects, which is and the Street Programs are, it is publicly advertised. We advertise in the Daily Reporter and it's also put on the Builders Exchange and other similar sites that are basically Contractors sources for project information. Virtually, anyone in the area will get notice of it through that process.*

Amos: *That's wonderful, thank you. I wondered if we did it so that the vast majority could receive it. Thank you.*

Bennett: For the public, can you remind us what Gender Road Phase 5 Project is all about?

Sims: Phase 5 is improvements at the Canal Street and Gender Road intersection as well as the Winchester Blvd and Gender Road intersection. Canal Street, currently that is our last span wire signal configuration on Gender Road so we will be converting that to the decorative mass arms like all the other signalized intersections and also adding a north bound right turn lane for traffic that wants to turn right on Bigerton Bend from Gender Road. We are also moving the bike path, that is currently adjacent to the travel lands on Gender Road between Canal Street and Winchester Blvd, we are going to pull that away from the traffic then we will add a North bound right turn lane from Gender Road onto Winchester Blvd. We have a couple of different issues there so folks think the bike path is a turn lane, they enter the lane then realize they can't actually get to the intersection from there then they try to work their way back into traffic.

Bennett: Thank you, Mr. Sims for that

A motion, was made by Bennett, to move ORD-21-010 to Full Council; seconded by Lynch. The motion carried the following vote: Yes-7 (Bennett, Lynch, Amos, Clark, Coolman, Milliken, Walker)

E. Old/New Business

21-026

McGill Park Trail Connector Project Update

Peoples: We got some very good news Friday, Luke was notified that the Department of Natural Resources has released the Project and we are free to move forward on the bid for that. We are planning on putting that out in advertisement in the Daily Reporter and those types of publications, Mr. Sims mentioned, on Wednesday so we expect to have a presentation and requested legislation to Council at the first meeting in April, provided we get good bids from that. This is the Trail Connector Project only, we are still working through the Phase 1 Project and will go through the same thing with the ODNR on that.

(Overview- PowerPoint)

As you can see, this is an overview of the entire area on the upper left you can see the existing path along Dietz Drive and down Ashbrook Road across the covered bridge and the new path is in the orange. This is a 10 foot wide path that is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long. Its going to go from the covered bridge on Washington Street, along Washington Street, it's going to be separated about 6 feet from the edge of the roadway so it's going to be separated from the travel lanes then it will end up, basically where we are going to put the McGill 1 Phase 1 Project. Again, we received a Grant that is administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The grant is roughly around \$450,000 and this project is estimated to be \$850,000 we are still

finalizing the estimate, we will have that on Wednesday. Originally, we are just a little under budget, we had the application it was right around \$900,000 and it was a 50% grant. The grant is actually \$450,000 up to 75% so the lower we go the more percentage ODNR is going to pay for that. A couple of the large features on this are the two weathering steel bridges. Basically, if you go up 33 the Metro Parks path that goes over by Hamilton Road that is the bridge style we are going to put in. It has a little different truss design but this is the weathering steel bridge that we are looking at. These are going to be at two locations, the first location is right across the gorge. This will be a 66 foot long bridge and it's 12 feet wide both bridges are vehicle rated so from our maintenance stand point we will be able to get our crews in there to do work. The path is going to extend all the way down the creek on the upper right hand side along the creek bank. The second bridge is further down, this will be a 27 foot bridge and about 6 feet above the water. The large bridge will be about 15 feet above the water as it crosses over. Those houses there are Footlock Way and if you look really close you can see the High School in the background. Both bridges will be scenic in nature. We are pretty excited about this project its been a long time coming.

Amos: *Mr. Peoples, on the trail running along Washington Street is that paved or gravel?*

Peoples: *Everything is paved. These are all 10 foot paved asphalt paths except at the bridge they are 12 feet.*

Amos: *Have we talked anymore about lighting on this?*

Peoples: *At this point, there is no lighting on any of this portion of the project.*

Amos: *Ok. Well Done.*

Bennett: *The path on Washington Street is that the side with the homes?*

Peoples: *Yes, it will cross over those 2 private drives if you go from Ashbrook Road to Washington Street bridge it will be on that right hand side as your coming into town.*

Bennett: *On your map there is another body of water, will we ever build a bridge that connects almost like a loop to the covered bridge to the High School and back?*

Peoples: *The original McGill Park concept plan has a bridge that is further down, the plan is to get a path back there to cross the creek that way. It hasn't been developed yet.*

Lynch: *Looking at the grading and planting plans, it looks fantastic. Just to confirm this path does connect to the park. Right?*

Peoples: *Yes, currently there is only one crossing and it will link up to that.*

Lynch: Phase 1 of McGill Park actually has walking trails that go around the soccer fields

Peoples: Yes, there's many more and this will get us to that next Phase as well.

Lynch: Are the plants part of this?

Peoples: Yes there are a lot of plants and yes it is part of the plan.

Lynch: The bridge, the asphalt, the trees and the shrubs.

Peoples: Park Benches are included in this but we also have some plans to take some of the trees we cut and make them into some small informal benches as part of that.

Lynch: Is it going to be striped at all?

Peoples: I'm not sure about striping none of our other trails are.

Lynch: The area around this path, do we envision this area to be maintained on a regular basis or will it be more organic and go back to what it was before?

Peoples: A lot of this is under tree covering so I'm not sure how much grass will grow there. Trees are coming down we will use some of the mulch in that area as well. There are a few small areas on the trail not under tree covering.

Lynch: Will those areas be seeded and along Washington Street, too?

Peoples: Yes it will be

Lynch: I think it will be a nice addition and a great way to get people to the park. Well Done.

Peoples: Yes

Coolman: Just for the public knowledge, is that for emergency vehicles?

Peoples: Yes our vehicles and emergency vehicles only.

Coolman: I was thinking fire trucks for easy access.

Peoples: I don't think it can take a fire truck, we are talking a pick up truck only

Coolman: If a fire truck needed to get there is the bridge equipped to handle it.

Peoples: The bridge will not be, no.

Coolman: *Ok*

Peoples: *An Ambulance, may be able to go across but those are pretty heavy*

[20-238](#)

Charter Review Commission Recommendations

Coolman: *In past meetings, we have all taken it upon ourselves to get familiar with it. The only comment I will make is this is totally Council's decision. Just to remind you, on December 16th we were sent an email by our Legal Representative, Mr. Boggs, that we need to bring this to finalization so we can have it ready to do our three reads no later than June 1st being the first read. Keep in mind we have the second meeting in July off so we have until May to get this completed.*

What is Council's desire here, to continue to review each item we have some items we didn't go through. Or is it something we can move to the Committee of the Whole meeting?

Amos: *Do we know if we were able to establish any of the conversation with the Police Department. Is that on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting?*

Bennett: *The intent is yes. I am still awaiting confirmation from one.*

Coolman: *Going back to the Charter, does anyone have any questions on any of the points reviewed?*

Lets talk about the Committee of the Whole meeting then. Right now, we have the Charter.

Amos: *The Charter should be the last thing on the agenda. We should have our guest first, then the Chat*

Coolman: *Any other ideas?*

Clark: *I'd like to propose, the City has been working on a transportation thoroughfare plan that is discussing the extension of Canal Winchester Blvd to the Bixby Road, future Bixby Road interchange. It's my understanding that the study is suppose to be done in Spring. Is that correct?*

Peoples: *We received a draft of the thoroughfare plan from EMH&T and we are going thru review now. I don't know if it will be ready for the Committee of the Whole. EMH&T is planning to make a presentation at a public meeting, which we have not scheduled yet.*

Clark: *Ok, then if we are going to have a public meeting on that then that would be an appropriate time. I didn't know we were going to have a hearing on it.*

Coolman: *Ok, then we will have the Police, right. Mr. Bennett will you verify?*

Bennett: *Yes*

Milliken: *Are we confident that we will be able to get all of that in? I feel like the Charter Review is going to take up a good chunk of time.*

Coolman: *I Agree*

Milliken: *I think as important as the Police Department is, I think this takes priority over that. I think giving the Board of Health their 30 minutes, I am ok with.*

Coolman: *I believe we have until 11pm that night.*

Amos: *That is correct, we have from 6pm-11pm*

Coolman: *But hopefully, we won't need 5 hours but we have it. Mr. Bennett will let us know about the Police Department and we can go from there.*

Amos: *Quick Question for the Mayor, with the census data being pushed back, has the State's Auditor contacted you?*

Mayor: *I haven't seen anything yet.*

Amos: *The State Auditor has filed suit because the census data is being pushed back instead of being released as it suppose to.*

Mayor: *I haven't seen anything yet.*

F. Adjournment

A motion, was made by Milliken, to Adjourn the March 1st Work Session Meeting, seconded by Bennett. The motion carried the following vote: Yes-7 (Milliken, Bennett, Amos, Clark, Coolman, Lynch, Walker)